PREFACE

Research at the Naval Postgraduate School is carried out by faculty in the School's eleven academic departments, four interdisciplinary groups, and the School of Aviation Safety. This volume contains research summaries for the projects undertaken by faculty in the Department of Oceanography during 1997. Also included is an overview of the department, faculty listing, a compilation of publications/presentations, and abstracts from theses directed by the department faculty.

Questions about particular projects may be directed to the faculty Principal Investigator listed, the Department Chair, or the Department Associate Chair for Research. Questions may also be directed to the Office of the Associate Provost and Dean of Research. General questions about the NPS Research Program should be directed to the Office of the Associate Provost and Dean of Research at (831) 656-2098 (voice) or research@nps.navy.mil (e-mail). Additional information is also available at the RESEARCH AT NPS website, http://web.nps.navy.mil~code09/.

INTRODUCTION

The research program at the Naval Postgraduate School exits to support the graduate education of our students. It does so by providing militarily relevant thesis topics that address issues from the current needs of the Fleet and Joint Forces to the science and technology that is required to sustain the long-term superiority of the Navy/DoD. It keeps our faculty current on Navy/DoD issues, permitting them to maintain the content of the upper division courses at the cutting edge of their disciplines. At the same time, the students and faculty together provide a very unique capability within the DoD for addressing warfighting problems. This capability is especially important at the present time when technology in general, and information operations in particular, are changing rapidly. Our officers must be able to think innovatively and have the knowledge and skills that will let them apply technologies that are being rapidly developed in both the commercial and military sectors. Their unique knowledge of the operational Navy, when combined with a challenging thesis project that requires them to apply their focussed graduate education, is one of the most effective methods for both solving Fleet problems and instilling the life-long capability for applying basic principles to the creative solution of complex problems.

The research program at NPS consists of both reimbursable (sponsored) and institutionally funded research. The research varies from very fundamental to very applied, from unclassified to all levels of classification.

- Reimbursable (Sponsored) Program: This program includes those projects externally funded on the basis of proposals submitted to outside sponsors by the School's faculty. These funds allow the faculty to interact closely with RDT&E program managers and high-level policymakers throughout the Navy, DoD, and other government agencies as well as with the private sector in defense-related technologies. The sponsored program utilizes Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) with private industry, participates in consortia with other government laboratories and universities, provides off-campus courses either on-site at the recipient command or by VTC, and provides short courses for technology updates.

- NPS Institutionally Funded Research Program (NIFR): The institutionally funded research program has several purposes: (1) to provide the initial support required for new faculty to establish a Navy/DoD relevant research area, (2) to provide support for major new initiatives that address near-term Fleet and OPNAV needs, (3) to enhance productive research that is reimbursable sponsored, (4) to contribute to the recapitalization of major scientific equipment, and (5) to cost-share the support of a strong post-doctoral program.

- Institute for Joint Warfare Analysis (IJWA) Program: The IJWA Program provides funding to stimulate innovative research ideas with a strong emphasis on joint, interdisciplinary areas. This funding ensures that joint relevance is a consideration of research faculty.

In 1997, the overall level of research effort at NPS was 151 faculty workyears and exceeded $32 million. The Department of Oceanography's effort was 16.82 faculty workyears and exceeded $3 million. The sponsored research program has grown steadily to provide the faculty and staff support that is required to sustain a strong and viable graduate school in times of reduced budgets. In FY97, over 87% percent of the NPS research program was externally supported. In the Department of Oceanography 94% was externally supported.

The department's research sponsorship in FY97 is provided in Figure 1.

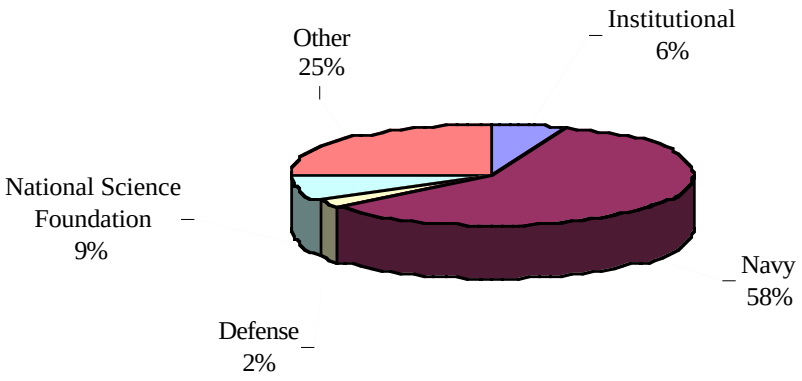

Figure 1. FY97 Sponsor Profile of the Department of Oceanography

These are both challenging and exciting times at NPS and the research program exists to help ensure that we remain unique in our ability to provide graduate education for the warfighter.

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